

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 AF-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 /153 W

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R 151807Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1858

UNCLAS ROME 12646

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ITALIAN MEDIA COVERAGE SISCO VISIT

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO'S VISIT TO ROME WAS COVERED IN GREAT DETAIL BY BOTH TV AND RADIO. MONDAY EVENING'S MAIN NEWSCAST CARRIED FILM CLIP OF SISCO AND AMBASSADOR VOLPE MEETING ITALIAN FONMIN MORO AND ASST. SECY'S INTERVIEW WITH ITALIAN TV JOURNALIST. SPEAKER EXPLAINED OVER SISCO'S VOICE THAT "HE HAD EXCELLENT DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH ITALIAN FONMIN AND HIS COLLABORATORS...ITALY IS FIRST LEG OF TRIP THROUGH EUROPE TO REPORT ON PROGRESS IN ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT TRUCE AND TO HEAR ITALIAN VIEWPOINT. CONSULTATIONS WITH ITALIANS AND OTHER NATO ALLIES WILL CONTINUE." TV ANCHOR MAN CONCLUDED: "ASKED WHEN AND WHERE PEACE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD, SISCO REPLIED THAT WE STILL HAVE TO WAIT."

2. SISCO'S ROME VISIT ALSO COVERED EXTENSIVELY BUT FACTUALLY BY ALL PAPERS EXCEPT PRO-COMMUNIST /PEASE SERA/. THREE FRONTPAGE STORIES (SOCIALIST AVANTI, CHRISTIANDEMOCRAT IL POPOLO AND LEFT-OF CENTER IL GLOBO). ALL REPORTS WERE BASED ON STORY RELEASED BY ITALIAN ANSA NEWSAGENCY AND ON TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STRESSING "CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS." SEVERAL PAPERS PUBLISHED PICTURES SHOWING ASST. SECRETARY WITH AMBASSADOR

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VOLPE AND MIN. MORO. AVANTI NOTED SICO'S "CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF ME NEGOTIATIONS." OTHER PAPERS
SPECULATED THAT SISCO'S MEETING WITH VATICAN OFFICIALS
DEALTH WITH "FUTURE STATUS OF JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES."

3. UNOFFICIAL VATICAN DAILY /OSSERVATORE ROMANO/ REPORTED
SISCO'S MEETING WITH MORO BUT IT IGNORED MEETING WITH CASAROLI.
VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMISTICE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME12646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731131/aaaaawwr.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN MEDIA COVERAGE SISCO VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, IT, US, XF, (SISCO, JOSEPH J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005